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By 1935, transportation was far behind the development of industry and of the general economy. One of the main reasons for the poor living conditions and the difficulties encountered in the industrial and economic fields was the lack of transport. [redacted] as of 1941 the Soviet transportation facilities were able to meet only approximately 55% of the needs of industry and agriculture.

3. An example of how lack of transportation hamstrung industrial activity was furnished by the Tashkent Agricultural Machinery Building Plant (Tashselmash - Tashkentski Zavod Selskovo-Khoziastvenovo Mashina Stroeniya). This factory was constructed during the period 1929-32. It was designed to build agricultural machinery, particularly for the cotton-growing areas of Turkestan, and, during times of war, to produce light weapons. However, because of the shortage of railroad equipment, the necessary iron and coal could not be transported to the plant. As a result, Tashselmash, during the period 1933-41, worked usually at only from 3% to 5% capacity. At most, it operated at 10%. During World War II the plant did turn out such military items as mortars, hand grenades, and antitank grenades. More railroad cars were available than in the eastern USSR, as they were removed before the advancing German Army. Tashkent became very active industrially during World War II as many plants were evacuated to that area.

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